



# FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

February 21 - March 5, 2016

## SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

### The theme for February is Silence

2/21 - Rev. Erin Splaine and Zr. Alex Kapitan

2/28 - Rev. Erin Splaine

### The theme for March is Calling

3/6 - Rev. Erin Splaine

3/13 - Rev. Erin Splaine

3/20 - Music Sunday

3/27 - Easter - Multigenerational Service

## 'CAN WE TALK?'

### An Introduction to Culturally Fluent Communication

As FUSN continues to engage in discussions about becoming a more welcoming, inclusive community, it is essential that we learn techniques for effective communication face to face, by phone and via e-mail.

Please join us at FUSN on Monday, March 7, 7:00-9:00 p.m. for a highly interactive and educational workshop exploring cross-cultural communication in the age of social media facilitated by Beau Stubblefield-Tave and Judy Kaye of the Center for Culturally Fluent Leadership. Session participants will have the opportunity to explore techniques for effective communication, learn three "race talk skills:" and consider four techniques supporting courageous conversations on race. We will also have the opportunity to explore other topics and issues identified by members of the audience.

For more information, please contact Josie Greene, [josieg49@gmail.com](mailto:josieg49@gmail.com), 617 513-2814

## MEMBER SERVICES UPDATE

Since FUSN's New Year's Eve extravaganza last month, the Member Services Committee has been busy updating directory information, reaching out to folks we haven't seen for a while at FUSN, and preparing for newcomer activities taking place over the next few months. Currently, we are focusing our efforts on gearing up for the next New to UU class on March 12! This is a fun way for people to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, understand how FUSN works, take a tour of the building, discover ways to get involved, as well as meet new people and key leaders. It's especially great for individuals who are new or have been attending for a few years but want to learn more about FUSN, UUism, and what it means to be a member at FUSN. It will take place from 8:30 a.m. to noon in the Alliance Room. If you are interested in attending, let Ash, [ash@fusn.org](mailto:ash@fusn.org), know!

You may have also noticed some of us walking around coffee hour with brightly colored post-its on our name tags. These post-its indicate a person's preferred pronoun - for example, ze/hir/hir, they/their/them, she/her/hers, he/him/his, to name a few. There are also blank post-its for those individuals who would like to fill in their own preferred pronouns. Wearing these post-its supports FUSN's Welcoming Congregation ministry and can go a long way in making everyone feel welcome at FUSN. Be sure to stop by the Welcome Table and select a post-it(s) for your own name tag!

This spring, the Member Services Committee will also be bringing back FUSN Fun Nights, so be sure to check the order of service, mailing list, or Facebook page for further details in the coming weeks! FUSN Fun Nights are a fun, low-key way to spend time with friends and meet new people. Let Ash, [ash@fusn.org](mailto:ash@fusn.org) know if you would like to be involved in planning a future Fun Night!

-Ash Engel

**Staff:** Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Fran Clancy, *Administrator*, Ashley Engel, *Membership and Communications Coordinator*, Rowan Van Ness, *Director of Religious Education*, Beth Walton, *Assistant Director of Religious Education*, Dani Negus, *Youth Programs Coordinator*, Anne Watson Born, *Director of Music*, Carson Cooman, *Organist*, Roberta Humez, *Minister of Music Emerita*, Ruslan Crosby, *Beadle*.

**Board of Trustees:** Brian Burba, Gregg DiBiaso, Eric Haas, Cathy Morocco, Bobbie Sproat, *Co-Chair*, Lesley Sneddon, *Co-Chair* Julianna Lakomski, Becca Lozinsky, *Youth Representatives*

**Operations Council:** Susan Bartlett, *Chair*, John Brennan, Jeannie Chaisson, Judy Curby, Laurel Farnsworth, *Vice Chair*, Andrea Kelley

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## FROM THE BOARD

My name is Becca Lozinsky and I am one of the youth representatives to the Board of Trustees. I am a senior at the Advanced Math and Science Academy in Marlborough, and I live in Newton. I have been coming to FUSN since I was a little kid in RE. My mom was raised Quaker, and my dad grew up a Jew in the Soviet Union. Naturally, my parents decided that the best way to raise their kids was in the Unitarian Universalist tradition. I am very grateful that my parents made that choice.

FUSN has given me incredible opportunities to grow and figure out who I am. I always joke around with my family about how I live a “double life.” There’s a “Newton Becca” and an “AMSA Becca.” The “Newton Becca” is the artistic and creative Becca. I dance and sing with groups in Newton. The “AMSA Becca” is completely focused on academics. FUSN, and specifically the Board of Trustees, has been a place where both parts of my life come together. During my time on the Board, FUSN has seen some difficult situations. I find myself lucky that I got a chance to witness how an organization deals with and overcomes difficult situations. The Board has allowed me to combine my analytical and leadership skills as we have tackled everything from budget concerns to crisis management and difficult conversations.

When I first joined the Board at the beginning of last year, I didn’t really expect to have any impact. I was expecting to be confused at all times and not know what was going on. At best, I figured I would learn something new. I have been pleasantly surprised with how my ideas have been received by the Board. Something I’ve learned is that you never know if your idea is a valuable contribution unless you speak up and join the conversation.

I am able to participate in discussions and give a different perspective. On top of that, I’ve come to realize that adults truly value the youth perspective because it represents our future and is free of the baggage of the past. In fact, most of the discussions that the youth representatives participate in don’t directly concern youth issues. But sometimes our perspective is still very useful. And when the issue does directly affect the youth, our input is essential.

My time serving on the Board has taught me invaluable lessons that I would not have learned anywhere else, and for that I am eternally grateful. I encourage other youth to strongly consider serving on the board because it is a truly unique experience.

## YOUTH MINISTRY BROADCAST

Thank you for tuning into another week of the Youth Ministry Broadcast. This past weekend, Feb. 12-14, FUSN youth joined youth from Sherborn, Arlington, Winchester, and Belmont for a service project weekend. Around 30 youth volunteered at three different community organizations, a soup kitchen, a women's shelter, and at the UU Urban Ministry to clean, serve meals, and pack bags of fresh produce. Following the service projects, the youth participated in a Boston Mobilization training that discusses racism and how to have difficult conversations. All of the youth from the congregations worked hard, learned a lot, and had an opportunity for community with other high school youth!

The youth have also been working hard on planning for Coffee House! Mark your calendars for March 5 at 5 pm to see some incredibly talented performers from Newton North and Newton South High Schools! The proceeds from the Coffee House will go to support Communities Without Borders. We hope to see you there!

Best, *Dani Negus, Youth Programs Coordinator*

## YOUTH COFFEE HOUSE

**The FUSN Youth Coffee House is brewing.** On Saturday, March 5, youth from FUSN and around the city will perform at the 15th Annual Youth Coffee House. This is no ordinary night. The Youth are amazingly talented. This year, we’ll welcome some new acts: Constantine the Magician, a rap artist, an Indian dance troupe, as well as the return of Spon Gen, Newtones, our own Lozinsky sisters, and Ryan Park’s jazz quartet, Upswing. All proceeds benefit Communities without Borders and the children and schools of Lusaka, Zambia. Don’t miss the food, the fun, and a night of great entertainment.

## ABOUT US

**George and Irma Psathas** would like to thank all the kind and thoughtful people who provided dinners for us during the time we both were recuperating from our various health problems. Many thanks! We appreciate your help.

**Thank you** to Elli Crocker Morse who cleaned, organized and beautified the Flower Room. In all the year’s I have been here (and they are many) I have never seen the Flower Room looking this organized and useable.

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## MUSINGS

Upcoming events featuring FUSN folks:

The **BU Opera Institute** is presenting Mozart's comic opera *Così Fan Tutte* Feb. 25-28 at the Huntington Theatre (<http://www.bostontheatrescene.com>) Our bass soloist, Jorgeandrés (Jac) Camargo, will sing the role of the cynical and manipulative Don Alfonso in the Thursday and Saturday performances. The director, James Marvel, says, "The Boston production will focus more on the artificial, synthetic, superficial aspects of the characters being gradually pulled away through the opera. The production will be slick, sleek, and sexy." Don't miss it!

Saturday, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 28, 3:30 p.m.  
Mystic Chorale, Jonathan Singleton, Artistic Director  
The **Mystic Chorale** Presents *Mystic Gospel 2016*.  
The 250-voice-strong Mystic Chorale and band will present two joyful and spirit-filled concerts, featuring an eclectic mix of music rooted in the African American gospel tradition. Mystic Gospel's energizing 2016 program includes such favorites as the Duke Ellington classic, "Come Sunday"; a version of "Mary Don't You Weep" that fuses gospel and blues; a South African variation on "Khumbayah," which has long been an anthem of the civil rights and women's rights movements; the rousing spiritual, "I'm Gonna Sing"; and much more! Venue: Converse Hall, Tremont Temple, 88 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02108.  
Tickets: \$18/Adults \$15/Seniors & Students.  
Available online at Brown Paper Tickets:  
<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2491950>

**Our organist, Carson Cooman**, "is an American composer with a catalog of hundreds of works in many forms—from solo instrumental pieces to operas, and from orchestral works to hymn tunes. His music has been performed on all six inhabited continents in venues that range from the stage of Carnegie Hall to the basket of a hot air balloon." ([www.carsoncooman.com](http://www.carsoncooman.com)) His oratorio, *The Revelations of Divine Love (Metaphors from Sea and Sky)*, will be performed by the Commonwealth Chorale (formerly Newton Choral Society) on Sunday, March 13, 3pm at Church of the Holy Name in West Roxbury. Carson writes, "The texts of the work are adapted primarily from the writings of Julian of Norwich (c. 1342–1416). Julian is best-known for her *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love* (c. 1393), believed to be the first English-language book written by a woman. Considered one of the most significant English mystics of all time, Julian lived a

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## MUSINGS (continued)

reclusive life as an anchoress at the Church of St. Julian in Norwich, England (her true name is unknown). Regarded even during her lifetime as a spiritual authority, her optimistic visions have been very influential in the years that have followed. Texts are also drawn from three additional sources: an excerpt from the *Book of Margery Kempe* (translated by Christopher M. Brunelle), two poems by English poet Robert Herrick (1591–1674), and a poem by the American writer Elizabeth Kirschner (b. 1955). The primary concept underlying this oratorio is the presence of two distinct discourses. One is a sequence taken from Julian's religious visions. The other is a "sonic geography" of Nantucket Island. The landscape of Nantucket has been the driving force behind a large number of my compositions for many years. In this oratorio, Julian's visions are transposed from Norwich and mapped onto the Nantucket landscape."

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## RIDE ASSISTANCE

The Lay Ministers and Erin are considering a FUSN van service to assist those individuals who would otherwise have difficulty in attending Sunday services, especially during the winter months. There would be no charge for those using this service. Here are a few of the particulars as the service is currently envisioned:

- free access to all those wishing to attend FUSN services.
- professional drivers skilled in assisting those who need extra assistance or handicap accessible transportation.
- coverage would include all of Newton and possibly some other nearby neighborhoods as well (e.g., parts of Wellesley and Watertown)
- weekly routes would be scheduled
- the van would bring 8-10 people at a time to and from FUSN. Based on the level of need, the van could make multiple trips both to and from the church at different time intervals.

Of course, we need a minimum number of riders for this service to make sense. So, if you, or someone you know, would appreciate this assistance in getting to and from Sunday services, we need to hear from you. Please contact Cris Goldsmith, [crisgoldsmith@gmail.com](mailto:crisgoldsmith@gmail.com) or any of the other lay ministers.

## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

**Join us** for our next monthly Community Breakfast, the best way to start your Sunday, on March 13 at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. The extensive menu includes scrambled eggs, scrambled eggs with vegetables, pancakes, French toast, bacon, sausage, gluten-free corn bread, home fried potatoes, white and whole wheat biscuits, vegetarian sausage gravy, fruit, yogurt, jams and jellies, juices, coffee and tea, and the occasional special treat. It's only \$4 for adults and \$3 for kids. Newcomers eat free. We have high chairs, too. Upcoming breakfasts – Apr. 10 and May 22.

## EVENING SONG

**Evening Song** March 6, at 7:00 p.m.! FUSN's Vespers service sung by Vermilion, a quartet directed by Amelia LeClair, has a new Name, a new Time, a new Date! Our monthly service of contemplation with music and poetry chosen by FUSN poets continues every **FIRST** Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

**Deadline for the next newsletter is March 1, 9:00 am.**



### **Music Sunday:** March 20

*Come, lamp of every heart...*

We are so happy to announce that some young chamber musicians from Project STEP will be joining us in worship on March 20! This will be a wonderful opportunity to get to know some of the young people who will perform at our Benefit Concert for Project STEP on April 10. You can see more photos from last year's concert here: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152335877307391.1073741838.61495752390&type=3>

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